Antelope Valley Microcomputer Users Group

AVMUG Newsletter

Next AVMUG Meeting:

- *Wed. June 16,, 2004*
- *7:00 P.M.*
- *Lancaster Senior Center*
- *777 West Jackman*
- *Lancaster, CA*
- *Information: 661/942-1912*

June Meeting

This month's Meeting will feature Harley Hahn writer and explainer. He has written 29 books on the internet and has been a presenter at our group in the past. Harley Hahn is available to us through the courtesy of Patrick Linstruth of Qnet our local Internet Service Provider.

Mr. Hahn will cover a topic from on of his books "Internet Insecurity" and is called "The Mystery of Viruses: revealed". He'll explain what they are , who writes them, and how to protect yourself.

Photo by Santana

Tech News

Windows XP Service Pack 2, scheduled for release next month, will be available as a "critical" download on the Windows Update site and will ship with new PCs. The update will introduce technologies for network protection, memory protection, secure e-mail handling, secure browsing and PC maintenance. A new Windows Security Center allows firewall monitoring, Automatic Update and third-party anti-virus software and warns customers when they need to apply patches. Microsoft will probably ship free CDs, but consumers will probably pay for shipping and handling.

**Chipmaker, Intel, and PC makers are shifting the PC to multimedia hub for the home. Intel predicts two new categories

**Entertainment PCs will imitate stereo and video components, like a VCR, and will play music and DVDs, record TV programs and even show picture slide shows.

Entertainment PCs will use your TV for display and be operated by remote control.

Lifestyle PCs, designed to inhabit bedrooms and kitchens, will look like desktop computers and will be operable via remote control or keyboard, allowing users to write an e-mail and later play a video or music. Lifestyle PCs will also come with multimedia software such as Windows XP Media Center.

The new PCs will be pricey. An entertainment PC might start at $700 - $900 and sell for $1,400. Lifestyle PCs could start at $600, but with a large flat panel display could sell for as much as $2,000. PC makers have also announced plans to offer special media adapters called the Windows Media Center Extender, which will let consumers view Media Center files on TVs. SnapStream Media has also figured out a way to get your PC in touch with TV. Firefly is a remote control that lets people manage media and entertainment on their PCs --TV tuning, DVD playback, streaming video, digital music players and photos. Firefly is compatible only with Windows XP and Windows 2000 PCs equipped with a 500MHz processor, 128MB of memory, 100MB of free hard disk space, and a CD or DVD drive. Firefly will cost $49.99.

**HP's Media Center PC of the future has a remote control with a built-in LCD screen for programming recordings. The PC, known as the Windows Home Concept, also supports Internet telephony, dual high-definition TV tuners, biometric security, and a built-in cable modem. For a web-based slide-

Tech News

show and more information about these new concept PCs, see:
http://www.eweek.com/article2/0,1759,1586428,00.asp

**Internet2, the high-speed network designed to facilitate scholarly collaboration among university researchers, has spawned a new turbo-charged file-trading network dubbed i2hub. University network administrators are concerned that copyright violations are occurring and a computer support specialist at Florida State University says: "The fact

is, (the network) cost a lot of money and downloading games and music should be the last priority on any campus network."

**Yury Gitman, a self-described "wireless and emerging-media artist" in New York, has outfitted his bicycle with an iBook laptop and Wi-Fi anten-

nas so that everywhere he goes, a cloud of free, high-speed wireless Internet access follows. Demand for wireless Internet access in automobiles has been picking up, and plans are to offer it in airplanes soon.

**Memory designer Rambus, has begun to license designs for interfaces for DDR DRAM, or double data rate DRAM, the most common type of memory found in PCs and a technology that's often used in consumer electronics devices. The interfaces let another component retrieve data out of DDR DRAM chips. A new version, called DDR 2, will be released soon that runs at 533MHz. It will soon speed up to 800MHz.

**Last year, Congress increased the amount small businesses can write off on new equipment purchases from $25,000 to $100,000. Known as the Section 179 deduction or the SUV tax, the increase is

serving as motivation for sport utility vehicle purchases, but also is an incentive to purchase technology-related equipment. It's available only through 2005, so businesses should decide quickly whether or not to spend while the spending's good.

**IBM plans Web-based desktop software. Lotus Workplace strategy, is a bundle that includes e-mail, word-processing, spreadsheet and database applications aimed at business users. The new software is designed to be distributed and accessed through a Web server, and accessible from systems running Windows, MAC, Linux, Unix and handheld devices. IBM hopes to sway customers to Lotus Workplace with ease of management, mobility and price. The new software is designed to be used offline, so mobile users on laptops or handheld devices can connect, quickly access applications and disconnect to work offline. IBM plans to charge $2 per user per

month for access to the software, plus the cost of server software to make the system work.

**The History Channel's 13-episode series on "Decisive Battles" that debuts July 17 makes use of a not-yet-released PC game to re-create the epic battles that mark ancient Rome's colorful history. "Rome: Total War" will be published by Activision this fall.

By *Sue Crane,* Editor

Bearly Bytes, Newsletter of the Big Bear Computer Club, California

The Editorial Committee of the Association of Personal Computer User Groups (APCUG), an international organization of which this group is a member, brings this article to you.

Don't be a Victim of Health Scare Stories

Health scare artists are utilizing the Internet as a medium for terrorizing the public, and unfortunately many adults are taking the stories seriously. These tall tales are often written citing evidence and research that sounds legitimate. Frequently an e-mail is sent to you from a reliable friend who had received it from another acquaintance who had "personal knowledge or personal experience" with the alleged dangerous item. The health scare messages are always the same—whatever it is will make you sick or even cause death.

If you try to research accurate health information about the topic sent, you may literally become caught in the Web, where health hoaxes and urban medical myths run rampant. Many of these Websites appear to have valid researched data.

Before you decide to believe or, worse forward e-mail with serious health claims, do a little checking. Start on the Web with www.urbanlegends.com or www.snopes.com that catalogue the more persistent rumors. These two sites also detail persistent legends on other topics in addition to health scare stories.

Then go to reliable health sites, like:

www.mayohealth.org for general health

www.medhelp.org especially good for cardiology

www.oncolink.org for cancer

www.cancer.gov for cancer

www.navigator.tufts.edu for nutrition

www.fda.gov for latest updates on food/drugs as well as extensive archives

So keep yourself informed and don't become one of the individuals caught in a web of confusion by believing the stories and passing them on to others.

Many of us have been victim of health-related frauds, myths, and fallacies. We have to make many decisions about our health and care and want to make them will informed. This site will keep you up-to-date on the latest findings on health care frauds.

Quack Watch is an informative site that deals with such issues like growth hormone scams, coral calcium, and acupuncture.

It has a section on allergies and alternative medicine. You might want to start with Tips for Navigating our Web Sites. In the "Quackery" section you will find the following sections: Seven Warning Signs of Bogus Science, Ten Ways to Avoid Being Quacked, Signs of a "Quacky" web site. Always seek a second opinion, but please peruse www.quackwatch.org

By

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APCUG Advisor for Region 9

Photo by G.. Anderson

Windows System Key Combinations

Key Combinations

- F1: Help
- CTRL+ESC: Open **Start** Menu
- ALT+TAB: Switch between open programs
- ALT+F4: Quit program
- SHIFT+DELETE: Delete Item permanently
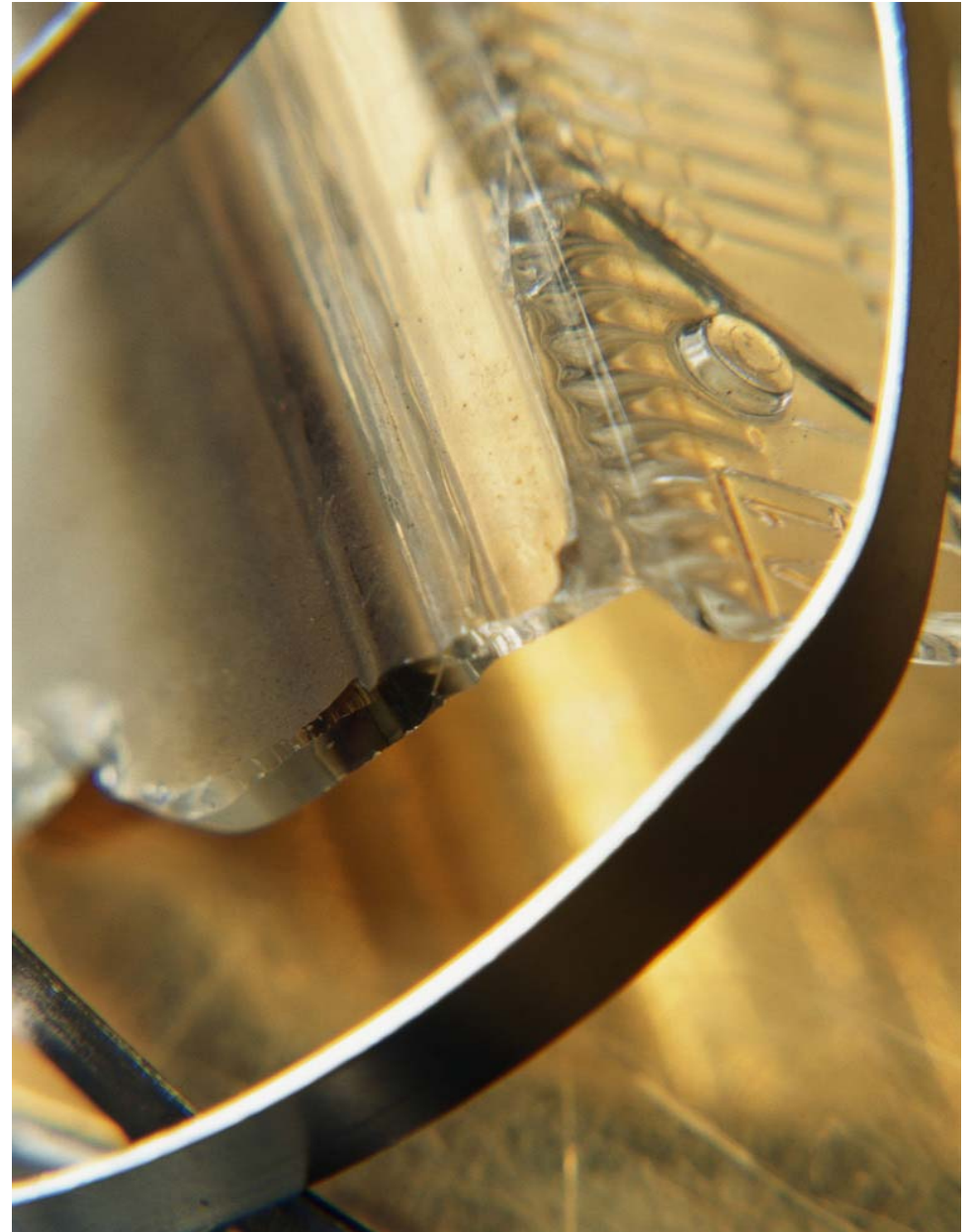
Program Key Combinations

- CTRL+C: Copy
- CTRL+X: Cut
- CTRL+V: Paste
- CTRL+Z: Undo
- CTRL+B: Bold
- CTRL+U: Underline
- CTRL +I: Italic

Mouse Click/Key-Board Modifier Combinations for Shell Objects

- SHIFT+right click: Displays a shortcut menu containing alternative commands
- SHIFT+double click: Runs the alternate default command (the second item on the menu
- ALT+double click: Displays Properties
- SHIFT+DELETE: Deletes an item immediately without placing it in the Recycle bin

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If you would like more of these Keyboard Combinations, please let the Editor know of your interest in these shortcuts.

President's Corner

AVMUG took a major step into the future with the initiation of three workgroups at our May general meeting. You choose your interest group and participate as an equal status member/contributor. You now have the opportunity to choose your groups goals, method of operation, topics, and guest presenters. Now you have a chance to actually do things to hardware and software and learn more in the process.

We will publish upcoming workgroup topics in the newsletter and on our website. Members who wish to leave their "home" workgroup and visit another group's presentation only need notify their home group's coordinator and the coordinator of the group they wish to visit so we can ensure that room assignments are appropriate for the number of people expected.

On workgroup meeting

months, (July and September) we will hold a brief general meeting, then break into our workgroups at their assigned rooms, then reassemble after the workgroup session for our drawings.

Since this is a new concept for the club, it will evolve with your suggestions. This is your opportunity to tailor the club's operations to better serve you-so share your ideas and help make the adventure better for everyone.

Here are your workgroup designations and email coordinators:Group

Email Contact

Email Address

Nuts and Bolts (N & B)
Bob Lion

president@avmug.av.org

Frequently Asked Questions(FAQs)

Ed Groth

kt@net.com

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Ray Coronado

librarian@avmug.av.org

Note-JB Brown is coordinator for the FAQs and is at:
imasok@surfside.net

Our hardware custodian, Ken Henderson has been spending a lot of personal time

rebuilding our computers and soon each workgroup will have a computer, video splitter and several monitors available.

We have recently had a major contribution of computer hardware items by Mr. "BJ" Dastoori , CEO of Tiger Tech Inc - Lancaster. BJ has been a long time friend, supporter, and presenter. This is the second time his computer store has

AVMUG plans to build a computer network in the near future. If anyone has any PC related contributions, please contact Ken at kfh777@juno.com We are especially in need of DIMM ram-please keep us in mind when you upgrade your systems.

This year, our continued growth and success is directly attributable to all those who generously give of their time, hardware/software and funds. These individuals often get no public recognition and their help has aided us on our very limited budget this year- thanks for making the club better for everyone.